CLAIMS

1.   Apparatus for simulating the measurement of a part using a visual measurement
system, the apparatus comprising:

a computer executing a software program which receives a digital model of a part,
and renders an image of the model of the part, the image rendered under conditions
simulating a measurement system, and which evaluates the image to produce a value
representative of a physical characteristic of the part.

2.   A method of simulating measurement of a physical part using a computer model of
the physical part, comprising:

launching measurement software;

simulating a physical measurement system;

manipulating the simulated measurement system to produce a virtual observation of
the computer model; and

analyzing the virtual observation to produce the simulated measurement.

3.   A software product including a machine readable medium on which is encoded a
sequenced instructions which when executed cause an apparatus to perform steps of:

launching measurement software;

simulating a physical measurement system;

manipulating the simulated measurement system to produce a virtual observation of
the computer model; and

analyzing the virtual observation to produce the simulated measurement.

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